Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 **(Canceled)**

Claim 3 **(Currently Amended)** An ~~The~~ optical disc apparatus ~~as defined in claim 1 in which~~ for performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and ~~there is provided~~

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, ~~and~~ wherein

the control means controls the laser pickup to ~~so that it~~ perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 4 **(Currently Amended)** The optical dick apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein ~~in which~~ the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 5 **(Currently Amended)** The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein ~~in which~~ when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claims 6 and 7 **(Canceled)**

Claim 8 **(Currently Amended)** A ~~The~~ method for controlling an ~~the~~ optical disc apparatus ~~as defined in claim 6 which detects~~ having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:

following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;

seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;

repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued;

detecting a ~~the~~ consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a ~~the~~ consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time ~~in the first step~~, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area; ~~,~~ and ~~which performs~~

performing a ~~the~~ hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, ~~in the second step~~ when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected ~~in the first step~~.

Claim 9 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which~~ further comprising switching a ~~the~~ rotation speed of the optical disc ~~is switched in the second step~~ at the hold tracking.

Claim 10 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.

Claim 11 **(Currently Amended)** The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein ~~in which~~ when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 12 **(Currently Amended)** An ~~The~~ optical disc apparatus ~~as defined in claim 2 in which there is provided~~ for performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, wherein

the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed, and

the control means controls the laser pickup to ~~so that it~~ perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 13 **(Currently Amended)** The optical dick apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein ~~in which~~ the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 14 **(Currently Amended)** The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein ~~in which~~ when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 15 **(Currently Amended)** The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein ~~in which~~ when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means

interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 16 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 9, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.

Claim 17 **(Currently Amended)** A ~~The~~ method for controlling an ~~the~~ optical disc apparatus ~~as defined in claim 7 which detects~~ having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:

following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;

seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;

repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued;

detecting a ~~the~~ consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a ~~the~~ consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time ~~in the first step~~, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area;; and ~~which performs~~

performing a ~~the~~ hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, ~~in the second step~~ when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected, ~~in the first step~~

wherein the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed.

Claim 18 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which~~ further comprising switching a ~~the~~ rotation speed of the optical disc ~~is switched in the second step~~ at the hold tracking.

Claim 19 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 18, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.

Claim 20 **(Currently Amended)** The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.